

REMARKS

Claims 11-29 and 42-56 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claim 57 has been cancelled herein and thus is no longer pending. Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 11-24 and 42-55. Claims 25, 27, 28, and 56 have been amended herein. A complete listing of claims is found on pages 2-9. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested since they remove issues in the event of an appeal, do not require further searching, and/or place the subject application in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 27-29 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 27-29 and 57 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants' representative respectfully submits this rejection should be reversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 27-29.—Independent claim 27, from which claims 28 and 29 depend, recites: ***a computer-implemented attribute value request component that receives a request for a value of a first of the state attributes from a first client; and a computer-implemented attribute value supplier component that determines a client-source able to generate and supply the requested value of the first state attribute by using a value of at least one other state attribute, of requests the client-source to supply the requested value of the first state attribute, and, during generating of the requested value of the first state attribute by the client-source, monitors requests from the client-source for values of one or more indicated state attributes needed for generating the requested value of the first state attribute, monitors other requests for values of indicated state attributes needed for generating values of other state attributes that are indicated in one of the monitored requests, and indicates presence of a circular reference when it is determined that a state attribute indicated in one of the monitored requests is the first state attribute, wherein the circular reference can result in computational deadlock.*** The claimed subject matter is a new and useful machine; namely, the claimed components are implemented in a computer as supported in applicants' specification (see, e.g., page 14, lines 12-13 and lines 17-

27), and produce at least one useful result: the claimed subject matter *indicates presence of a circular reference [...] wherein the circular reference can result in computational deadlock.*

In view of at least the above, applicant's representative respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101, respectfully requests this rejection of independent claim 27, and claims 28 and 29 dependent there from, be reversed, and the subject claims allowed.

Claim 57.—Applicants' representative respectfully submits that this rejection of independent claim 57 is now moot in view of the cancellation thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 25-26 and 56-57 under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 25-26 and 56-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants' representative respectfully submits this rejection should be reversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 25 and 26.—Independent claim 25, from which claim 26 depend, recites: *A computer-readable medium comprising contents that, when executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to carry out the following acts: receiving a request from a first client for a value of a first state attribute; determining a client-source able to generate and supply the requested value of the first state attribute by using a value of at least one other state attribute; requesting the client-source to supply the requested value of the first state attribute; and during generating of the requested value of the first state attribute by the client-source, monitoring requests from the client-source for values of one or more indicated state attributes needed for generating the requested value of the first state attribute; monitoring other requests for values of indicated state attributes needed for generating values of state attributes that are indicated in previously monitored requests; and when it is determined that a state attribute indicated in one of the monitored requests is the first state attribute, indicating a presence of a circular reference during the generating of the requested value of the first state attribute, wherein the circular reference can result in computational deadlock.* Therefore, claim 25 clearly points out and “distinctly claims the subject matter which the applicant claims as his invention.” Namely, a *computer-readable medium comprising contents that, when executed by a*

computing device, cause the computing device to carry out the series of claimed novel acts, wherein the series of acts comprises the method of allowed claim 11.

In view of at least the above, applicants' representative respectfully requests this rejection of independent claim 25, and associated dependent claim 26, be withdrawn and the subject claims be allowed.

Claim 56.—Independent claim 56 recites: *A computer-readable medium comprising contents that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to carry out the following acts: determining that a module for generating a value of a context attribute is generating a first value of a first of the context attributes which model a context of at least one of the device, the user of the device, the physical environment of the device, or the available electronic information environment of the device and; determining that a circular reference exists when it is established that a module for generating a value of a context attribute is to generate a second value of the first context attribute such that generating the second value causes requesting from another module for generating a value of a context attribute to generate a value of an attribute whose generating is caused by the generating of the second value of the first context attribute, wherein the circular reference can result in computational deadlock.* Therefore, claim 56 clearly points out and “distinctly claims the subject matter which the applicant claims as his invention.” Namely, a *computer-readable medium comprising contents that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to carry out* the series of claimed novel acts. Accordingly, applicants' representative respectfully requests this rejection of independent claim 56 be withdrawn and the subject claims be allowed.

Claim 57.—Applicants' representative respectfully submits that this rejection of independent claim 57 is now moot in view of the cancellation thereof.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-24 and 42-55 are allowed. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Winder for allowing the subject claims.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP1886USA]

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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